

Samuel Houston to Andrew Jackson, August 3, 1822, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

Murfreesboro, August 3, 1822.

Dear Genl. , On this day a resolution has passed the Senate (unanimously) recommending you as a person the most worthy and suitable to be the next President of our Union. ¹ The expression cannot be esteemed by you any thing less than a grateful and honorable expression of the feelings of your fellow Citizens.

¹ The resolution, as it passed the Tennessee house, July 20, is printed in Bassett's *Jackson* , p. 328; *Niles' Register* , XXII. 402.

I am aware of your sensibility on such occasions, but the crisis requires that something shou'd be done! The Canker worms have been (already too long) gnawing at the very core and vitals of our Government and corruption stalks abroad, without obstruction, or reprehension.

You are sensible how long I have been faithless in the Heads of Department. It was at a time when you hoped better things than corruption. You had confidence in *men* , perhaps you have yet. But if you will allow me to Divine any thing, I will assure you that you have no friendship to expect from "The Gentlemen of Washington." Whilst it was probable that you could, or wou'd throw any thing in the scale of either Champion, hope of that influence and advantage, wou'd readily induce the friendship of either.

You are now before the eyes of a nation. You have nothing to fear, but every thing to expect. The hopes of men in Washington will be *frost bitten* by the bare mention of your name! When can it be expected that every effort will not be used to Guard against the

Library of Congress

rule of Justice and Truth? They will strike like the wounded viper—fall victims of their own poison, rather than see Integrity, (the great enemy of corruption) triumph.

In calculating the result of the next election, I reflect thus. You have been your countrys Great Centinel; at a time when her watchmen had been caught slumbering on post. Her capitol had been reduced to ashes. You have been her faithful guardian, her well tried servant! This admitted will not the nation look to you again? will it not regard your interests, when they are connected with your countrys future welfare. There will be no caucus at the next congress! 2 The next President will be the "Peoples Choice."

2 Madison and Monroe had each been nominated, twice, by congressional caucus. Crawford was thus nominated in 1824, but it did him as much harm as good.

These matters considered, I have very little to dread of the result. As to my own wishes they are only for the best interests and honor of my country.

You have friends throughout America: each has his sphere, and each will feel and act from the best motives.

Some one or two Gentlemen quit the house on the occasion. They will repent it!

Please present my best respects to Mrs. Jackson.

I have the honor to be Your most obt. sevt. and friend